

WILD BLUEBERRIES

Maine's 2001 wild blueberry crop totaled 75.2 million pounds, 32 percent below the record crop produced in 2000 and 14 percent above the 1999 output. In general, pollinating conditions were good in 2001 and area crop specialists rated fruit set above average through mid-June. At the start of the growing season, the 2001 crop looked to match or exceed 2000's record production; however, drought conditions which lasted from late July until harvest decreased yields on non-irrigated fields. Disease and

insects were not a significant problem in 2001, but the dry conditions caused some growers to completely abandon selected fields. Due to the lack of rain in most parts of the State, growers reported berry size as below average and some had to irrigate where available. The average price per pound for processing was 30 cents and the total value of Maine's 2001 wild blueberry crop was \$22.9 million, down 49 percent from the previous year.

WILD BLUEBERRIES: Production and Value, 1992 - 2001

STATE and YEAR	Total Production 1,000 Lbs	All Price per Pound Cents	Total Value of Production 1,000 Dollars	Fresh Blueberries			Blueberries for Processing		
				Production 1,000 Lbs	Price per Pound Dollars	Value of Production 1,000 Dollars	Production 1,000 Lbs	Price per Pound Cents	Value of Production 1,000 Dollars
Maine									
1992	84,513	41	34,519	320	^{1/}	^{1/}	84,193	41	34,519
1993	64,562	28	17,979	350	^{1/}	^{1/}	64,212	28	17,979
1994	59,495	30	17,744	350	^{1/}	^{1/}	59,145	30	17,744
1995	65,944	32	21,004	305	^{1/}	^{1/}	65,639	32	21,004
1996	59,198	57	33,590	268	^{1/}	^{1/}	58,930	57	33,590
1997	73,816	43	31,622	276	^{1/}	^{1/}	73,540	43	31,622
1998	62,981	46	29,166	360	1.00	360	62,621	46	28,806
1999	66,102	51	33,889	300	1.10	330	65,802	51	33,559
2000	110,990	40	44,732	420	1.20	504	110,570	40	44,228
2001	75,200	31	22,945	350	1.40	490	74,850	30	22,455

^{1/} Fresh Blueberry data is not available for 1992 - 1997.

